

THE SHELTER DISH

The Animal Services Division of the Fairfax County Police Department

Fall 2003 Edition



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Welcome to *The Shelter Dish*, the newsletter of the Fairfax County Animal Services Division!

Inside, you will find everything you would need to know about the Fairfax County Police Department's Animal Services Division.

The staff at Animal Services Division wants to ensure the adoption experience is a good one for both you and your pet. If we can be of further assistance to you, please call us at
(703) 830.1100.

Happy Reading!

What's Important to Me Makes All the Hardships Worth the Pain

by Lea Ann Gross, Animal Caretaker

1. Educating the public.
2. Placing animals into a loving, quality home where they can become a permanent part of a loving family.
3. To take pride in who I am and in my own work because it is an extension of me.
4. Providing good and loving care to all animals whether they have two or four legs.
5. Spending time with groups who come in and giving tours.
6. Working hard.
7. Helping others.
8. Laughter heals all.
9. Hoses being rolled up neatly.
10. Everyone having water.



Contributing Writer Lea Ann Gross has been a Caretaker at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter since October 2002. She has three dogs: Shelby Lynn, Cody, and Beauregard.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM GENERAL INFORMATION

We would love for you to volunteer with us!

Please take a moment to read through this list to see if you would be interested in applying to become a Fairfax County Animal Services Division Volunteer.

- The minimum age for Volunteers is 16 years old.
- There is a required time commitment of 3 months and at least 8 hours a month to volunteer with us.
- You must pass a basic criminal background check before you will be called for an interview.
- Volunteers sign up for time slots in the areas in which they are trained.
- Each volunteer is trained for a minimum of two specialties of their choosing.
- The current ten specialties include:

Dog Walker- *Assist in the socialization of dogs available for adoption by walking them in a specified area. Volunteers are encouraged to interact with dogs by talking, brushing, and playful contact.*

Kennel Assistant- *Assist caretakers with duties associated with animal care, cleaning cages, filling water bowls, taking animals out of cages to visit with potential adopters. This job also includes routine maintenance such as washing windows, food pans, sweeping, etc.*

Grooming Assistant- *Assist caretakers with the grooming of animals at the shelter. Duties include bathing animals, clipping nails and other tasks related to the upkeep of an animal.*

Cat Socialization- *Assist in the socialization of cats available for adoption by handling, brushing, speaking softly, and playful contact. Duties also include spot cleaning cages, replacing water, and cleaning litter boxes throughout the day.*

Small Mammal Assistant- *Assist caretakers with duties associated with rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, and other small mammals. Duties include spot cleaning cages, replenishing water and hay, and sweeping around cages. Volunteer also interacts with the public and must have prior experience with small mammals.*

Front Office Assistant- *Assist the front office staff with such duties as updating lost and found reports, assisting citizens at the counter with the purchase of licenses, questions regarding adoption policies and other animal issues.*

Administrative/Multimedia Assistant- *Assist the Volunteer Services Coordinator with administrative duties in the Volunteer Office. Duties include assembling adoption packets, volunteer packets, scanning images, creating flyers, etc. Some graphic design background is preferred.*

Receptionist/Telephone Assistant- *Assist the front office staff with answering phones and dissemination of information. Responsibilities include taking lost and found reports over the phone, as well as providing information to the public in regards to Animal Services Division.*

Events/Tours Assistant- *Assist the Volunteer Services Coordinator with guided tours of the Shelter. Duties include providing groups of all ages and numbers detailed information about Animal Services Division, as well as acting as a representative of Animal Services Division at public events. Volunteers with extroverted personalities are preferred.*

Adoption Counselor Assistant- *Assist in the counseling process of the public. Duties include reviewing personality profiles of animals in the Shelter to properly match a citizen with a specific animal. Must have good communication skills.*

Wildlife Update

by Earl L. Hodnett, Wildlife Biologist

Red Fox

(Vulpes vulpes)

BACKGROUND

The red fox is not native to Virginia. They were originally found in more northern states and across Canada. Historical accounts note that some red foxes were brought from England and released along the Eastern shore of Maryland before 1650. Exactly how they arrived in Fairfax County is probably eclipsed by the fact that they are extremely common today. It is believed that red foxes successfully compete with and displace our native common gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*).



Red foxes have very keen senses and prey on a wide variety of species. The most common natural prey species are cottontail rabbits and mice. Red foxes den in a burrow in the ground. Once their young are raised, the den is abandoned. They do not utilize a den in the winter but prefer instead to sleep in the open. It is the spring denning behavior which commonly leads to human/fox conflicts.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Red foxes have adapted rapidly to living within suburban areas. Foxes have traditionally been leery of humans and avoid encounters with humans. I have noted that red foxes seem to be commonly sighted throughout the county and are active during daylight hours. I have seen them sitting or lying in the front yards of houses calmly watching cars drive by in the middle of the day. Of particular interest to me has been the number of telephone calls reporting red fox dens near houses. Several have actually been under the front porch while others are located under a deck on the back of the house. Many are located under a shed in the back yard.

This proximity to houses, people, and pets illustrates a behavior previously unheard of in red foxes. This behavior will result in concern by citizens about rabies, general safety of children and pets, and the effects of a predator of this size upon birds, chipmunks and squirrels more typically found in a back yard. The level of public concern will likely correlate with the cyclic occurrence of rabies. I can find no record of a red fox actually attacking a small dog or cat, nor is there any record of a fox attacking children. This leaves rabies as the only plausible source of concern. Here again, the data isn't there to support this concern either. Human rabies fatalities in the United States are nearly exclusively restricted to exposure to bats.

Contributing Writer Earl L. Hodnett has been Fairfax County's Wildlife Biologist since 1997. He has a pug, a golden retriever, and a doberman pinscher.

Rabies Clinic

INFORMATION

Animal Services Division offers a low cost rabies clinic as a service to Fairfax County residents. Dogs must be on leashes and cats must be in carriers. The clinics are sponsored by the Northern Virginia Veterinary Medical Association and are offered the second Sunday of every other month.

Time:
12PM to 2PM
~~~  
**Cost:**  
**\$10.00**

You can also see animals available for adoption on Adopt-A-Pet on County Cable Channel 16.

Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays- 2:30PM

Tuesdays- 10:30PM

Thursdays- 8:30PM

Saturdays- 6:30PM



### Upcoming Rabies Clinic Dates:

November 9, 2003

January 11, 2004

March 14, 2004

May 16, 2004

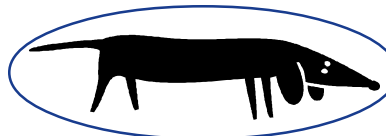
July 11, 2004

September 12, 2004

November 14, 2004

## Don't forget to purchase your Fairfax County Dog License!

Fairfax County dog licenses must be purchased annually. Please bring your rabies certificate and proof of sterilization. Licenses can be purchased at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter or at the Government Center. Licenses can also be purchased by mail to either location. License fees are \$5.00 for sterile dogs and \$10.00 for fertile dogs.



**2004  
Dog Licenses  
go on sale  
November 1!**

**County of Fairfax, Virginia**  
Department of Tax Administration  
52000 Government Center Way, Suite 223, Fairfax, VA 22031  
(703) 222-8256

**For Enclosed:**  
Fertile Dog: \$10.00 Sterile/Neutered Dog: \$5.00  
Please include a current rabies certificate, and, if applicable, spay/neuter certificate.

**Form Fields:**  
 Pet Owner's Use Only: Canceled Number, License Number, Rabies Expiration Date, Breed/Color, Color Code, ☐ Duplicate, ☐ Renewed, ☐ Call, ☐ Book.  
 Dog Name, Sex, Breed, Microchip Number, Date of Birth, Date of Spay/Neuter, Date of License, Date of Renewal.  
 Have you ever licensed this dog before in Fairfax County? ☐ Yes ☐ No.  
 Valid only if stamped PAID by Department of Tax Administration.

**License NOT SUBJECT TO EXCHANGE, TRANSFER, OR REDEMPTION.**  
County Ordinance (41-2-30) requires that this receipt be carefully preserved by the licensee and presented upon request of the Animal Services or other officer.



**"Dogs have owners, cats have staff."**

*-Anonymous*



**"Dogs come when they're called; cats take a message and get back to you later."**

*-Mary Bly*

## What every pet bird should have

When you adopt a bird as a pet there are a few things that you must provide for a happy and healthy environment:

Loving home

Good healthy diet

Large and safe cage

Toys

T-stand

Gym or play stand

Gram scale

Pet carrier

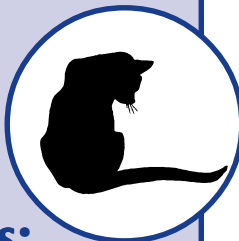
Regular veterinary check-ups



## Disaster Preparedness Packets Now Available



**Please inquire at the Front Counter!**



### Includes:

*-Disaster Supply Checklist for Pets*

*-Evacuation Tips*

*-Telephone numbers for Local Animal Shelters and Animal Control Agencies*

*-List of our Veterinarian Friends*



## Shelter Wish List

- Towels, Sheets, Blankets
- Newspaper
- Food (canned and dry), Treats
- Toys, Leashes, Collars, Dishes, Crates, Cages
- Small Animal Supplies (Rabbit, Bird, Guinea Pig, Hamster cages, & foods)

# Get to Know...

## Animal Control Supervisor William Tanner

***Where were you born?***

Charlottesville, VA

***How long have you been an Animal Control Officer?***

23 years

***What are some of your hobbies?***

Gardening, fishing, and boating

***How many siblings do you have?***

1 brother and 1 sister

***How many pets do you have?***

Two Jack Russells named Boomer and Ruby, and one rabbit named Bunny

***What kinds of animals have you had during your lifetime?***

Dogs and rabbits

***What are some interesting things about you that we might not know?***

- I recently started painting old farm windows.
- I enjoy being with my family and going to the beach in North Carolina.
- I enjoy educating the public and speaking with citizens in neighborhoods.
- I believe in the “coaching” style as an ACO Supervisor.



## "Santa Paws"

Come and get your pet photographed with Santa this holiday season at Fair Oaks Mall. Check [shopfairoaksmall.com](http://shopfairoaksmall.com) during October for more details!



ASD's

Pet

of the Month



### Shelter Office Hours

Tuesday to Friday, 8AM to 6PM  
Saturday, 8AM to 5PM

### Adoption Hours

Tuesday to Friday, 10AM to 5PM  
Saturday, 10AM to 4PM

The Shelter is closed Sundays,  
Mondays and holidays.

## Gorsky

*Gorsky is a 9 year old neutered male with a cute little meow. Gorsky enjoys gazing out windows and being affectionate. Won't you take him home?*



### Fairfax County Police Department

#### ***Animal Services Division***

4500 West Ox Road  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
(703) 830-1100 (Shelter)  
(703) 830-3310 (Animal Control Dispatch)  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals)



*Did you forget to buy your county dog license?  
Dog licenses can be purchased at the Animal Shelter or at the Government Center.*